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IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 27 DECEMBER 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that, between 16 and 23 December 1999, United States and British aircraft, taking off from their bases in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey, continued to violate Iraqi airspace in the southern region, carrying out acts of aggression, observation and provocation, as specified in the list annexed hereto.

I should be grateful if you would intervene with the United States of America, the United Kingdom and the States which are providing them with facilities in order to commit these acts of aggression, namely, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey, with a view to halting such acts, which endanger the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Iraq and constitute blatant violations of the Charter of the United Nations and the rules of international law.

These acts continue to cause hundreds of deaths and injuries among the civilian population and material damage to private and public property. The logistical support provided by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey to the Americans and the British makes them essential accomplices in the aggression against Iraq, and they therefore bear international responsibility for these acts. The Republic of Iraq reaffirms its right to demand reparation for the harm inflicted on the Iraqi people through the aforementioned acts.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Saeed H. HASAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Details of violations of Iraq's airspace by United States and British aircraft and damage caused, 16-23 December 1999

1. In the southern region 182 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 9,000 to 13,000 metres. Details are given below:

(a) At 1155 hours on 18 December 1999 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory violated Iraqi airspace in the southern region. The aircraft carried out 44 sorties, 22 from Saudi territory, supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft from inside Saudi airspace, and 22 from Kuwaiti territory, supported by an E-2C command and control aircraft from inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Samawah, Salman, Nasiriyah, Amarah, Qal'at Salih, Qurnah, Artawi, Rifa'i and Hayy areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1315 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1110 hours on 19 December 1999 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory violated Iraqi airspace in the southern region. The aircraft carried out 48 sorties, 18 from Saudi territory, supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft from inside Saudi airspace, and 30 from Kuwaiti territory, supported by an E-2C command and control aircraft from inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Artawi, Busayyah, Jalibah, Salman, Ushbayjah, Nasiriyah, Shatrah, Qal'at Sukkar, Hayy, Basra, Qurnah, Qal'at Salih, Samawah and Rumaythah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1245 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 1025 hours on 20 December 1999 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory violated Iraqi airspace in the southern region. The aircraft carried out 46 sorties, 10 from Saudi territory, supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft from inside Saudi airspace, and 36 from Kuwaiti territory, supported by an E-2C command and control aircraft from inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Nasiriyah, Samawah, Salman, Amarah, Qurnah, Jalibah, Artawi, Busayyah and Qal'at Salih areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1300 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 1025 hours on 21 December 1999 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory violated Iraqi airspace in the southern region. The aircraft carried out 36 sorties, 18 from Saudi territory, supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft from inside Saudi airspace, and 18 from Kuwaiti territory, supported by an E-2C command and control aircraft from inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Artawi, Nasiriyah, Salman, Qurnah, Amarah, Qal'at Salih, Samawah, Qal'at Sukkar, Jalibah, Basra and Umm Qasr areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1200 hours, drove them off.

(e) At 1305 hours on 14 December 1999 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory violated Iraqi airspace in the southern region. The aircraft carried out 8 sorties from Saudi territory, supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft from inside Saudi airspace. They overflew the Salman, Ushbayjah, Lasaf and Taqtaqanah south areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1400 hours, drove them off.